

Commission Order No. 2001-996 sets out the guidelines and administrative procedures for the USF and provides details for the implementation of the USF, which consists of different phases. At the present time, the USF proceeding is considered to be at subsequent phases. Order No. 2001-996 provides that the subsequent phases of implementation allow an ILEC the option to complete the transition to the full amount of High Cost Support for which it is eligible in each Designated Support Service Area and

provides that a High Cost Support Component shall be phased in over time in order to properly identify and reduce those intrastate tariff rates providing implicit support to Universal Service and to allow the Commission to have proper oversight of the process. The High Cost Support Component is the sum of high cost support for all Carriers of Last Resort (COLRs) in South Carolina and represents a subsection of the total South Carolina USF.

During the subsequent phases, pursuant to Order No. 2001-996, starting on April 1, 2004, and on April 1 of each subsequent year, each ILEC receiving USF support may file tariff reductions and request additional USF support to fund the continued removal of implicit support contained in rates. Additionally, Order No. 2001-996 provides that companies seeking rate reductions shall also file detailed cost data clearly demonstrating that implicit support exists in the rates that are proposed to be reduced. Such filings will be considered by the Commission and a decision rendered by August 1 of the same year.

On March 25, 2004, Sprint filed a request for an extension of time with the Commission requesting that the Commission extend the April 1, 2004, deadline to file its tariffs associated with the USF. Sprint requests that the deadline for the Company's filing in the instant docket be extended for fifteen (15) days until April 15, 2004.

Sprint states in its request that the Company does not believe it has sufficient time between the date of the Company's request of March 24, 2004, and April 1, 2004, to complete its South Carolina USF filing. According to Sprint, the Company's internal costing team has been assigned to various tasks and has been unable to dedicate the time necessary to make the Company's filing. Sprint states that it does not believe the

Company's request is unreasonable in light of previous extensions granted by the Commission to other parties in this docket. Lastly, Sprint adds that the Company will endeavor to complete its filing in an expeditious manner.

The Commission finds and concludes that Sprint's request for an extension of time to file the Company's tariffs and accompanying cost data associated with the USF should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The deadline of April 1, 2004, as set forth in Commission Order No. 2001-996, shall be extended to April 15, 2004, for United Telephone Company of the Carolinas (Sprint). to file the Company's tariffs and any accompanying cost data associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

/s/
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)